

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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R 231432Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6867

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6425

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJECT: KING'S VISIT TO USS NIMITZ

REF: STATE 204718

1. SUMMARY. KING JUAN CARLOS AND QUEEN SOFIA, ALONG WITH SMALL PARTY, SPENT SEVEN HOURS ON USS NIMITZ THURSDAY, AUGUST 19. VISIT INCLUDED TOUR OF SHIP, LUNCHEON ON BOARD, AND DEMONSTRATION OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS. KING WAS PLEASED BY VISIT AND IMPRESSED WITH WHAT HE SAW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COORDINATION WITH CINCUSNAVEUR AMBASSADOR EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO KING TO VISIT USS NIMITZ ON AUGUST 19. THIS VISIT WAS INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE GOOD WILL THAT JUAN CARLOS HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED FOR THE U.S. AND THE US-SPANISH DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. IT IS ALSO TO BE HOPED THAT THE VISIT AND THE ATTENDANT PUBLICITY IT RECEIVES WILL ADD TO IMPRESSIONS OF SAFETY OF NPW, AND ASSIST INDIRECTLY IN OBTAINING SPANISH PERMISSION FOR NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS.

3. KING AND QUEEN AND AMBASSADOR PLUS PARTY WERE LIFTED BY HELICOPTERS FROM PALMA DE MALLORCA TO NIMITZ, WHICH REMAINED OUTSIDE SPANISH TERRITORY. AL

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WATERS. AFTER HONORS CEREMONY, PARTY WAS GIVEN A

BRIEFING ON LAYOUT AND FUNCTION OF SHIP AS WELL AS ON SIXTH FLEET ACTIVITIES AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN MED. FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF REPRESENTATIVE AREAS ON BOARD. THREE-MAN SPANISH TV FILM TEAM AND KING'S PHOTOGRAPHER COVERED VISIT.

4. FOLLOWING LUNCHEON ON BOARD, KING AND PARTY WITNESSED DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT OPERATIONS BY AIR GROUP, INCLUDING LAUNCH AND RECOVERY AND TARGET PRACTICE. KING WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN AIR-CRAFT AND SEABORNE OPERATIONS.

5. OVERALL PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN LIMITED. ALL PAPERS CARRIED BRIEF STORY FROM SPANISH NEWS SERVICE LOGOS FRIDAY MORNING, AND SPANISH TV HAS BROADCAST SHORT FILMED REPORT.

6. COMMENT: VISIT WAS A USEFUL EXERCISE AND SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN PREPARING THE WAY TO MOVE FURTHER TOWARD OBTAINING GOS APPROVAL FOR NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS. THE KING SEEMED INTERESTED IN THE IDEA THAT PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ BE INVITED TO VISIT NIMITZ AND URGED THAT INVITATION BE EXTENDED TO HIM. WE WILL PURSUE THIS MATTER LATER.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, USS NIMITZ
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID06425
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760322-0355
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760829/aaaaayzh.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 204718
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING'S VISIT TO USS NIMITZ
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, SP, (JUAN CARLOS I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006